



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New York District

New York Harbor, NY

Maintenance and Stewardship

FACT SHEET

DECEMBER 2008

DESCRIPTION: Maintain the navigation channels and anchorage areas within the upper and lower harbor to include Preliminary Engineering and Design, with ocean placement testing scheduled for possible future maintenance dredging of various channels that comprise the Harbor. Manage and monitor Ocean Placement and Reef sites that accept dredged material from projects within the New York Harbor as well as oversee all sampling, testing, and evaluation of testing data for all proposed ocean disposal projects.

AUTHORIZATION: The New York Harbor Federal Navigation project consists of the Ambrose, southerly entrance, Bayside (a.k.a. Sandy Hook Channel) and Main Ship Channels (a.k.a. Chappell Hill) adopted in 1884, modified 1933, 1937, 1958, 1965, and 1982. Also, the Anchorage Channel adopted in 1930 and modified in 1937, the removal of Craven Shoal to a depth of 30 feet, and a channel between Staten Island and Hoffman and Swinburne Islands to a depth of 16 feet.. Anchorage Areas and Channel along New Jersey Pierhead Line adopted in 1935. Additionally, Anchorage Areas (Gravesend Bay and Red Hook Flats) adopted in 1965 and modified in 1982.

In 1972, Congress enacted the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) to address and control the dumping of materials into ocean waters. Title I of the Act authorized the USEPA and the USACE to regulate dumping in ocean waters. The USEPA and USACE share responsibility for the MPRSA permitting and ocean disposal site management. The USEPA regulations implementing the MPRSA are found at 40 CFR Sections 220 through 229. The MPRSA divides permitting responsibility between the USEPA and USACE. Under Section 102 of the MPRSA, the USEPA has responsibility for issuing permits for all materials other than dredged material. Under Section 103 of the MPRSA, the Secretary of the Army has the responsibility for issuing permits for dredged material, subject to USEPA concurrence.

STATUS:

Plans for the continued management and monitoring of ocean dump sites (i.e. HARS) for dredged material have been agreed to between the New York District and EPA Region 2. These plans require extensive chemical, biological and physical surveys of select areas within the site. Monitoring will assess the physical integrity of capping contaminated dredged material placed during historic disposal activities, assuring that required cap thicknesses are maintained and that any erosion has not caused unacceptable adverse impacts. The HARS has received on average 4 million to 6 million cubic yards of material per year from federal and private dredging projects within the New York Region. Sampling and testing and review of those results are performed for all material proposed for ocean disposal as well as monitoring the effects on the HARS from projects deemed suitable for the HARS. Modeling and other investigations for the re-assessment of ocean disposal criteria is on going.

Sandy Hook Channel was maintenance dredged by the HOPPER DREDGE McFARLAND with placement at the HARS in FY 2008. Red Hook Anchorage and Main Ship Channel are being reviewed presently to determine if Engineering & Design activities are required at this time for possible future dredging of the channel. The Anchorage channel and Ambrose channel are scheduled for navigation improvements (deepening) and thus maintenance is not necessary at the time. Continued reviews of the conditions of these channels and anchorages are ongoing along with the current user needs.

Dredging Status for each channel:

Ambrose: currently being dredged as part of the Harbor deepening project.

Anchorage: currently being dredged as part of Harbor deepening project.

Sandy Hook Channel (Bayside and East Section): Last dredged in 2008 with removal of approximately 100,000 CY with HARS placement. Previously in 1997 with the removal of 93,059 CY of material and disposal at the Mud dump site.

Main Ship Channel (Chapel Hill) – was last dredged with a hopper in 1993 removing 364, 943 CY. Material was placed in the Mud Dump Site. Currently approximately 370,00CY of material has accumulated in the channel.

Red Hook Anchorage- Last dredged October 2001 with the removal of 487,470 CY using a Bucket dredge. Prior to this the area was dredged in 1986 with the removal of 209, 672 CY. Currently approximately 370,000 CY of material has accumulated in the Anchorage.

Gravesend Anchorage – The project was last dredged in 1998; a total of 82,032 cubic yards of sand was removed and placed on the beach near the West 37th Street groin in Coney Island with a hopper dredge. Currently approximately 15,000 to 20,000 CY of material has accumulated in the anchorage.

NJ Peirhead Anchorage-Last dredged in 1972 with the removal of 245,478 CY. Over 1M cubic yards of material have accumulated in this channel along the Pierhead line.

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